Central Assistance for Development of Forests in Meghalaya

928. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Meghalaya Government has sought Central aid for development of forests in that State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon;-

(d) whether Government have formulated any long-term action plan for Meghalaya in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The information is given in the enclosed statement, *(see* below)

(d) and (e) The Ministry has formulated the National Forestry Action Programme (NFAP), a perspective plan of twenty years for 26 States-UT including Meghalaya for sustainable development of forests as well as to bring one-third area of the country under forest/tree cover as envisaged in the National Forest Policy, 1988. The NFAP has been released by the Government on 9th August, 1999. The total requirement of funds for implementation of NFAP for the country has been estimated as Rs. 1339027.8 million for the next 20 years. For the State of Meghalaya, the requirement of funds has been estimated in NFAP as Rs. 1762.6 million.

Statement

The State Government of Meghalaya have sought central assistance for the IX Plan under the following Centrally Sponsored Schemes:

Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project Scheme: Out of the proposals received from Government of Meghalaya the National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board in the Ministry of Environment & Forests has sanctioned the proposal for treatment of degraded lands in the Chibok Watershed of East Garo Hills

District at a cost of Rs. 44.56 lakh for integrated development of 1500 ha. for a period of 3 years w.e.f. 1999—2000 to 2000—02 of the IX Plan. An amount of Rs. 10.21 lakh being the first instalment has been released against the current year's outlay of Rs. 13.61 lakh.

Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants Scheme: The National Afforestation and Eco-Development in this Ministry has sanctioned project for conservation and development of non-timber forest products including medicinal plants at a total cost of Rs. 104.63 lakh covering 1200 ha. in the State of Meghalya during the IX Plan. Against the approved outlay of Rs. 14.80 lakh for 1998-99, an amount of Rs. 12.0 lakh has been released and for the current year an amount of Rs. 27.72 lakh has been sanctioned.

Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fooder and Fooder Plantation Scheme: The Ministry has also sanctioned projects for raising 3200 ha. fuelwood and fodder plantation in the State of Meghalaya at a total cost of Rs. 123.80 lakh during the IX Plan, which includes Rs. 14.03 lakh, Rs. 125.95 lakh and Rs. 29.95 lakh for raising such plantations during 1997-98, 1998-99 antl 1999-2000 respectively.

Shifting of Gir lions from Gujarat to M.P.

929. SHRI ANATRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Gir lions of Gujarat are being shifted to Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of propulation of lions in Gir;

(c) whether it is decreasing; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to conserve Gir lions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Based on the feasibility study carried out by the